Three Lessons Book Report

8th Grade English

“You can’t amputate your past from your destiny” is a quote that many of us can apply to our lives. When you look back down that path you have come, most likely, you can see several momentous events that shaped your lives and helped create your personality today. These events make us who we are and how we act.

Similiarly, a character in a novel generally faces significant conflicts and learn lessons from those events that will probably shape who that character will become. The struggles that characters face- whether against man, nature, self or society- are often momentous enough that the character will learn some very valuable lessons from this encounter.

Your task, in this essay, is to examine the struggle that your main character encounters and determine what three lessons your character has learned as a result. In each paragraph, you should explain, in detail, the lesson that your character learned. Do not forget to make specific references back to the book, and provide quotes and/or examples to support your ideas. If you say “my main character learned to trust his family”, then make sure you tell what caused this to happen, and examples to prove that he does indeed feel this way. Also, don’t get too miniscule, in your lessons…don’t tell me every little thing he/she learned (he learned to eat a twinkie on page 30); tell me the important, life lessons learned about people, himself, or the world that will affect how s/he behaves or is in the future.

Your paper, as always, should be five paragraphs, with an intro (catchy, title/author, summary, thesis), three body paragraphs, and a conclusion, in which you recap the lessons and make a prediction as to how he/she will act in the future with these three new lessons learned. The grading rubric is below; the graphic organizer on the back is worth 10 points also.

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| **Focus** | **Content** | **Organization** | **Style** | **Conventions** |
| Sharp  4 | Sophisticated  4 | Sophisticated  4 | Sophisticated  4 | Controlled  4 |
| Sufficient  3 | Sufficient  3 | Functional  3 | Generic  3 | Sufficient  3 |
| Weak  2 | Limited  2 | Evident  2 | Limited  2 | Limited  2 |
| Minimal  1 | Minimal  1 | Confused  1 | Minimal  1 | Minimal  1 |

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